

Iowa's Shelter Care Program

Information for Health and Human
Services Appropriation Subcommittee

February 11, 2004

What is the purpose of shelter care?

- Shelter care provides 24-hour emergency care for youth until they can be returned home or longer term treatment arrangements can be made

How many children are served in shelter care?

- In FY 2003, the average daily population in shelter care was 379. The total number of children served over the course of FY 2003 was 1,550 children.
- In FY 2004, the average daily population in shelter care year-to-date is 396. In January 2004, there were 368 children in shelter care.

What's the profile of children in shelter care?

(Based on September 10, 2003 survey)

- Gender: 51% female, 49% male
- Age
 - 0 – 10 years: 8%
 - 11 – 13 years: 26%
 - 14 – 15 years: 40%
 - 16 – 17 years: 26%
- Referral source
 - DHS: 73%
 - Juvenile Court Services: 18%
 - Law Enforcement: 3%
 - Other: 6%

Why are children placed in shelter care?

(Based on September 10, 2003 survey)

Family conflict	35%
Waiting for placement	21%
Discharged from prior placement	21%
Child abuse/neglect	18%
Group care waiting list	15%
Runaway	13%
Substance abuse	13%
Waiting for court disposition	13%

Placements Before and After Shelter Care

(Based on September 10, 2003 survey)

	Placement immediately before shelter care	Planned placement after shelter care
Home	33%	19%
Relative	10%	5%
Day Treatment	--	1%
Family Foster Care	20%	19%
Group Care/PMIC	4%	28%
Shelter/Detention	23%	2%
Toledo/Eldora	--	1%
Runaway	11%	--

How long had children been in shelter care?

(Based on September 10, 2003 survey)

0 – 10 days	29%
11 – 20 days	20%
21 – 30 days	18%
31-- 60 days	21%
60+ days	13%
Average	43 days

How many shelter care providers are there? (as of 2-1-04)

- There are 23 shelter care providers, with 28 sites across the state.
 - 18 of the shelters are private, and 5 are public.
- There are 521 shelter care beds.
 - 437 beds are private
 - 84 beds are public
- Shelters range in size from 9 beds to 60 beds. The average is 19 beds.

How much does Iowa spend on shelter care?

- The state per diem for shelter care is \$83.69.
- Shelters can bill the county for the lower of the following.
 - Difference between the shelter's actual and allowable costs and the state per diem (\$83.69)
 - Difference between the average shelter care actual allowable cost (\$130.34) and the state per diem (\$83.69) -- \$46.65

Shelter care expenditures continued

- Total state costs
 - FY 02 -- \$10.45 million
 - FY 03 -- \$11.14 million
 - FY 04 (projection) – \$11.5 million
- Estimated county costs (provided by Iowa State Association of Counties) -- \$4.98 million

What are DHS Service Areas doing to manage shelter care utilization?

- Initial review within 48 hours of placement
- Family team meetings and case facilitation to identify options
- Diversion programs – crisis intervention, day treatment, use of relative placements
- Frequent review (weekly, 14 days, 30 days)
- Focused recruitment of foster families for adolescent youth
- Use of ankle bracelets as alternative for delinquent youth